

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (canceled).

1 2. (currently amended) The device as in claim 8, 10 or 9,
2 11, characterized in that, over its length, the channel
3 features varying cross-sectional dimensions or shapes.

1 3. (currently amended) The device as in claim 2, 8, or 9,
2 11, characterized in that a matching stub line serving for the
3 tuning of the acoustic transmission properties between the
4 coupling opening and the input or output extends into said
5 channel and is itself bounded by the material of the shell
6 member.

1 4. (currently amended) The device as in one of the claims
2 2, 8, 9 or 11, characterized in that, over at least a
3 substantial segment of its length, the channel extends
4 essentially parallel to the outer surface of the device.

1 5. (currently amended) The device as in one of the claims
2 2, 8, or 9, 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-
3 moulded hearing aid.

1 6. (previously presented) The device as in one of claims
2 2, 8, or 9, 11, characterized in that the device is a custom-
3 moulded, in-the-ear hearing aid and that the channel is part
4 of a venting system for the ear drum.

5 7. (currently amended) The device as in one of the claims
6 2, 8, or 9, 11, further comprising another channel,

7 characterized in that at least certain segments of said
8 channels extend in parallel fashion.

1 8. (currently amended) A hearing device comprising at
2 ~~least one of an acoustical/electrical converter and an~~
3 ~~electrical/acoustical converter respectively~~ with an
4 acoustical input ~~or output, said input or output respectively~~
5 being linked by means of a channel to a coupling opening
6 arrangement exclusively at an the outer surface of said device
7 adapted to be exposed to ambient when an individual wears said
8 hearing device, said device having via a channel, at least a
9 ~~part of said outer surface of said device being formed by a~~
10 unitary shell member forming said outer surface and of said
11 device defining an inner space distinct from said channel,
12 said channel comprising a part being provided in and along
13 said ~~part of said~~ shell member and being formed in the
14 material of said shell member.

1 9. (canceled).

1 10. (currently amended) A hearing device comprising:
2 a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an
3 outer surface of said device, said shell member
4 defining an interior space of said device, said
5 shell member forming a channel out of the material
6 of said shell member, said channel being formed in
7 and along said shell member and being distinct of
8 said interior space, and, over at least a
9 substantial segment of its length, said channel
10 running essentially parallel to said outer surface;
11 and
12 at least one of an acoustical/electrical converter and an
13 electrical/acoustical converter including an
14 acoustical input or output, respectively, wherein

15 said input or output is acoustically linked to a coupling
16 opening via said channel forming an acoustic path
17 from said input or output to said coupling opening
18 exclusively at an outer surface of said device and
19 adapted to be exposed to ambient or an ear canal of
20 an individual wearing said hearing device but not
21 both, and further wherein
22 said channel is tuned to have specific acoustical
23 characteristics.

1 11. (new) A hearing device comprising:
2 a one-part shell member forming at least a portion of an
3 outer surface of said device, said shell member
4 defining an interior space of said device, said
5 shell member forming a channel out of the material
6 of said shell member, said channel being formed in
7 and along said shell member and being distinct from
8 said interior space;
9 an electrical/acoustical converter including an
10 acoustical output, wherein
11 an acoustic path is formed from said output to a coupling
12 opening entirely in said shell member using said
13 channel, whereby said output is acoustically linked
14 to said coupling opening via said channel along at
15 least some portion of said acoustic path.

1 12. (new) The hearing device of claim 11, wherein said
2 acoustic path from said output to said coupling opening is
3 exclusively at an outer surface of said device and is adapted
4 to be exposed to an ear canal of an individual wearing said
5 hearing device.

1 13. (new) The hearing device of claim 11, wherein said
2 acoustical output is linked to said channel directly, or via a

3 conduit directly linked to said acoustical output and also
4 directly linked to said channel.

1 14. (new) The hearing device of claim 8, wherein an
2 acoustic path is formed from said output to said coupling
3 opening entirely in said shell member using said channel,
4 whereby said output is acoustically linked to said coupling
5 opening via said channel along at least some portion of said
6 acoustic path.

1 15. (new) The hearing device of claim 8, wherein said
2 acoustical input is linked to said channel directly, or via a
3 conduit directly linked to said input and directly linked to
4 said channel.